



4

Exposure to the arts

A new question in the National Endowment for the Arts’ 2012 Survey of Public Participation in the Arts revealed that adults who attended performing arts or visited museums as children were three to four times as likely to see shows or visit museums as adults.

Exposure to the arts in childhood turns out to be a stronger predictor of adult arts participation than education, gender, age, or income. For more see arts.gov/artistic-fields/research-analysis/arts-data-profiles/arts-data-profile-5/additional-information.

MORE CONGRATS TO ...

Livingston artist **John Banovich**, whose painting, “The Legend,” was among the offerings at the Scottsdale Art Auction, April 11 in Scottsdale, AZ. Another oil, “Something Stirring in the Moonlight,” will be included May 2 in the Fredericksburg Art Auction in Fredericksburg, TX. He’s also participating in the Prix de West Art Exhibition, June 12 – 13 at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, OK; and in the Coeur d’Alene Art Auction, July 25 in Reno, NV.



“The Legend” by John Banovich

Livingston artist **Paul Tunkis**, whose watercolor, “Osprey Nestling,” was selected for “Arte de Avian,” a national juried exhibition on display March 13-April 26 at the Tubac Center for the Arts in Tubac, AZ. The painting also won an award at “Watermedia 2014,” the Montana Watercolor Society’s 32nd annual national juried exhibition at the Big Fork Museum of Art and History.



“Osprey Nestling” by Paul Tunkis

Helena artist **Karen Luckey**, who had three paintings selected for the 19th annual Heartland Exhibition, March 7-April 11 in Merriam, KS. Titles are “Crab Apple Tree,” “Look Out” and “Bucket of Flowers.”

Steve Glueckert, senior exhibition curator at the Missoula Art Museum, who will receive the 2015 MAM Award during a reception June 17. Glueckert, an active visual artist, will retire the end of June after 23 years with the museum. The MAM Award is given to a museum supporter in recognition of exemplary dedication, generosity, and service to the Missoula Art Museum. “We can’t think of a person who embodies those ideas more than Steve,” says director Laura Millin. “During his tenure at MAM, Steve has touched so many of us – artists, musicians, patrons, and co-workers alike.”

Helena scholar **John A. Vollertsen**, who won first place in the western nonfiction category of the 2015 USA Regional Excellence Book Awards for the collection of essays he compiled, *Landscape and Legacy: The Splendor of Nature, History, and Montana’s Rocky Mountain Front*. According to the judges, Vollertsen’s work “truly captured the spirit of the West region of the United States and the excellence that this award was created to celebrate.” This western spirit, along with Vollertsen’s lifelong passion for the Front, inspired him to create a book celebrating the mountain range. The book’s 17 essays cover topics from geology to grizzly bears, and from Native American history to conservation ethics. The Front and its flora and fauna have long been under threat from overuse and misuse. “The principal reason for writing this book can be summed up in one word – advocacy,” says Vollertsen in the book’s introduction. His sentiment is echoed in each essay, as the authors speak of how their lives were touched by the Front, and of a need to preserve that magic for future generations.

Eric Hyypa, director and general manager of MontanaPBS, based at Montana State University, who has been elected chairman of the board of trustees of the Association of Public Television Stations. Hyypa became director and general manager of KUSM, Montana PBS in 2008. He graduated from MSU with a bachelor’s degree in computer science, and then joined KUSM as its computer system administrator in 1993. He was named the station’s information technology manager 10 years later. During more than 22 years

at the public television station, he has also worked independently for every major network and many independent companies. He’s also chairman of the board of directors of the National Educational Telecommunications Association, chairs public television’s Affinity Group Coalition, and serves on the board of directors of the Montana Broadcasters Association and the Friends of MontanaPBS. He’s also a member of the Montana Ambassadors.

Paul Decker of Music Villa in Bozeman, who was elected to the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Board of Directors during the annual show in Carlsbad, CA. The Montana retailer will serve a three-year term helping to guide the global music-product industry. Decker took over Music Villa from his father more than 15 years ago, and during that time has established the Bozeman store as a thriving music school, a full-line, independent musical instrument store, and a vibrant hub for local musicians. He also works with local artists to help them network with other musicians through Montanabands.com and MontanaMusicians.com, sites created and maintained by his web team. A drummer since childhood, Decker has performed with several bands including Little Jane and The Pistol

Whips, and is currently a member of The Kris Clone Band. He’s also a member of the Bozeman Chamber of Commerce and the Bozeman Downtown Association, and serves on the marketing committee of The Alliance of Independent Music Merchants.

The recipients of the Missoula Cultural Council’s annual Arts and Culture Awards, presented during a luncheon March 24 in Missoula. This year’s Cultural Achievement award went to **William Marcus**, director of the UM Broadcast Media Center and Montana Public Radio/Montana PBS. The Individual Artist Award went to **Stephen Kalm**, internationally acclaimed opera performer and dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts at The University of Montana. The Arts Educator Award was presented to **Karen Kaufmann**, a professor of dance at UM and director of Co-Motion Dance Project and MoDE (Montana’s Model Dance Education Project). Receiving recognition for Business Support for the Arts was the **Downtown Dance Collective**. The Cultural Vision Award was given to the **Missoula Children’s Theatre** for 45 years of theatre programming in Missoula and around the globe. “These outstanding individuals and organizations have all made tremendous contributions, helping to make Missoula a very special place to work and live,” said Tom Benson, director of the Missoula Cultural Council.



Paul Decker

TRANSITIONS

Welcome to two new staff members at the Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings: development director **Ashley Fagerstrom-Ündes** and community and volunteer coordinator **Ashley Pratt**. Fagerstrom-Ündes is a Billings native who spent the last eight years working in the nonprofit sector, either as development director or executive director for organizations across the U.S., handling fundraising, marketing, special events, and public relations duties. In her role



Ashley Fagerstrom-Ündes

as development director for Family Support Network in Billings, she played a key role in the development of program structure and funding for the Montana Children’s Trust Fund Child Abuse Prevention Program.

Pratt is a recent Rocky Mountain College graduate with double English degrees. She has worked in various local businesses – from breweries and restoration companies to tree nurseries – and interned with Sally McIntosh at the Ryniker-Morrison Gallery at RMC. The opportunity to work in an art museum is something she’s sought



Ashley Pratt

for many years, since volunteering at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West.

Welcome to **Jessica Vizzuti**, who joins the staff at the Montana Museum of Art and Culture at The University of Montana in Missoula as the new publications and programs coordinator. She brings a decade of experience working in media and arts administration to the museum. She replaces **Shawn Whitworth**, who has moved on to a position with the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs at UM after four years of dedicated service to the museum.



Jessica Vizzuti

Welcome to **Dodie Rife**, the new managing producer for NOVA Center for the Performing Arts in Billings. After an extensive national search and review process, Rife was chosen for her abilities in theatre and her passion for education. She has been involved on the production side of many operas produced by Rimrock Opera and NOVA. Rife replaces **Craig Huisenga**, who is cutting back on his duties due to family commitments. Huisenga will continue to serve NOVA as a director, actor, teacher, and member of the artistic committee. “Dodie’s experience will make her a great addition to the team,” he said.



Dodie Rife



Eric Hyypa
(Photo by Kelly Gorham)